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CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (TREATY OF TLATELOLCO)

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter GOOSEN (South Africa)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/85 of 16 December 1993.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 October 1994, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 53 to 66, 68 to 72 and 153. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 10th meetings, from 17 to 24 October (see A/C.1/49/PV.3-10). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach took place from 25 to 27 and on 31 October and 1 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 12th to 16th meetings, on 3, 4, 7 and 9 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.12-16). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place at the 19th to 25th meetings, from 14 to 18 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.19-25).

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

4. In connection with item 71, the First Committee had before it a letter dated 25 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the texts of the documents adopted by the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo from 31 May to 3 June 1994 (A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.10

5. On 31 October, Argentina, the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela submitted a draft resolution entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)" (A/C.1/49/L.10), which was later also sponsored by Belize, Haiti and Jamaica. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Mexico at the 12th meeting, on 3 November.

6. At the 21st meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Mexico orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In the seventh preambular paragraph, after the word "Argentina", the word "Belize" was inserted, and the word "twenty-eight" was replaced by the word "twenty-nine";

(b) In operative paragraph 2, after the word "Argentina", the word "Belize" was inserted.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.10, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 9).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.39

8. On 4 November, Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, the Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Uruguay submitted a draft resolution entitled "The South Atlantic region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone" (A/C.1/49/L.39), which was later also sponsored by Chile, the Congo, Guinea, Panama and Venezuela. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Brazil at the 14th meeting, on 7 November. (The draft resolution was submitted under both agenda items 71 and 72. For consideration of and action on the draft resolution, see the report of the First Committee on agenda item 72, as contained in document A/49/709.)

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 it expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would take appropriate measures to conclude a treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it voiced its confidence that, once such a treaty was concluded, all States, and particularly the nuclear-weapon States, would lend it their full cooperation for the effective realization of its peaceful aims,

Considering that in its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965 it established the principle of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States and those which do not possess such weapons,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) 1/ was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

Recalling also that in its preamble the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling further that in its resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967 it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

Bearing in mind that, with the full adherence in 1994 of Argentina, Belize, Brazil and Chile, the Treaty of Tlatelolco is in force for twenty-nine sovereign States of the region,

Recalling that in 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, submitted jointly by Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, 2/ with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis subscribed to the Treaty of Tlatelolco on 18 February 1994,

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1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

2/ A/47/467, annex.

Noting also with satisfaction the decision of the Government of Cuba to sign the Treaty of Tlatelolco in the near future, thus contributing to a greater integration among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean for the attainment of the aims of the Treaty,

Noting further with satisfaction that the amended Treaty of Tlatelolco is fully in force for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Suriname,

1. Welcomes the concrete steps taken by several countries of the region during the past year for the consolidation of the regime of military denuclearization established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);

2. Notes with satisfaction the full adherence of Argentina, Belize, Brazil and Chile to the Treaty of Tlatelolco;

3. Urges the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V) of 3 July 1990, 268 (XII) of 10 May 1991 and 290 (VII) of 26 August 1992;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".